

THE EVENING TIMES.

FRANK A. MUNSEY.

Some piratical lawmakers seem to be impressed with the idea that peace hath its loot no less than war.

Some booms which are coming to light about now are like a razorback hog, more speed than barrel.

If they would only set the anarchists to work at digging the new canal their bombs might be of some use.

It is rapidly coming to the point where Mr. Sousa will have to wear his medals in layers as an onion wears its skin.

Some men are so anxious to develop a bump of wisdom that they will tumble downstairs in the hope of bringing it out.

British generals who start out to capture De Wet need to be sure that their capturing machine is not turned the wrong way.

Marquis Ito is said to have refused a railroad pass while in this country; and this is another indication that the Japanese conscience is entirely too esoteric.

A medical institute in northern Missouri advertises treatment by hot air, which is more honest if less diplomatic than the prospectuses of some other institutions.

The time is swiftly approaching when the children's heads will be so full of Christmas that any ideas the teachers try to put there will be bound to spill over.

A Boston paper is said to be giving free vaccination with every subscription; but it is to be hoped that every subscription does not carry with it the obligation to be vaccinated.

Herr Most is not disturbed at the prospect of being exiled to an island. He says he would be the king of it; and this proves that anarchists are not really so dangerous to kings as they would have us believe.

Reformers in England are agitating for a six-day Christmas holiday for the workingman; but they do not seem to consider that in the event of compulsory idleness the workingman's stomach also takes a holiday.

Twin sisters of the age of five months were recently taken out for a walk by their nurse, in New York, and during the promenade one of them ate the blue ribbon which distinguished her from the other. Is it possible that those twins will go through life not knowing whether either one of them is herself or the other?

What the Country Wants.

So that arrangements are made for the construction of an isthmian canal which shall be under proper and natural jurisdiction, the people care little for the preliminaries.

The new century cries for the enterprise. Its value as a tributary to American growth has been repeatedly elaborated upon. Its worth as a new avenue of commerce is fully understood. Its importance as an indirect contributor to the closer relationship of the Americas is apparent.

The new century should not be allowed to grow very old ere the project has received an actual impetus that means completion within a reasonable period. While there are important points to be considered in the direction of convention and concession, these are certainly subordinate to the great work of inaugurating the enterprise under American auspices.

Let the isthmus be severed as soon as possible. There will be obstacles, but, like the one nature has already placed as a barrier between the oceans, they must be overcome by well-directed and persistent effort.

Our Japanese Neighbors.

It is earnestly desired by American residents of Japan that there should be a parcels post between that country and the United States. There is one between England and Japan, but Americans resident in any one of the numerous ports where there are foreign colonies have to pay letter postage on everything they send home, and their friends must do the same when sending them anything; so that a small article, such as a handkerchief or trifling gift, will cost two or three times its value by the time it has traveled from New York to Tokyo.

This is a very decided inconvenience to Americans in that country, for there are many small things which they could have sent to them from home, which they cannot get in Japan, or at least cannot obtain without considerable trouble and expense. They are therefore desirous that America shall adopt the same plan as England, and facilitate the sending of small things of no particular intrinsic value, which would be of exceeding value to the recipients.

A collar button is no great matter, but if a collar were necessary in the wilds of Central Africa and the button were missing it would probably look bigger to the imagination than the Pyramids of Egypt.

The Blotting Out of Poland.

The latest act in that international tragedy, the dismemberment of Poland, has come to light in the form of what is known as the "school scandal." Prince Radziwill, who is descended from the ancient Polish kings, claims that Prussian teachers have used actual cruelty toward Polish children to compel them to learn the German language and accept religious instruction in that tongue. Count von Bulow, the German Chancellor, however, answers all protests

by the statement that the Poles intend to act unanimously against those who agitate for the restoration of the independence of Poland.

The persistence of the Polish character, language, literature, and genius, in the face of generations of proscription and oppression, cannot but command the admiration of the civilized world. Poland at the time of its dismemberment was not, like other countries which have lost their independence, an uncivilized, unprogressive, or degraded State. Her people were at least equal to those of the countries about them in character, intelligence, and attainments; and her language was something more than a patois or vernacular.

Against the patriotism of the Poles have been directed a determined and persistent effort to blot out not only his national existence, but his language, his institutions, his traditions, and his very life, to make him over into a native of some other country. Naturally, this has been unsuccessful. It is said that if greyhounds, bulldogs, and yellow dogs were all placed together on an uninhabited island, there would eventually be nothing but yellow dogs left, because the artificial variety would revert to the ancestral type; but the bulldog would never, in any circumstances, be developed from the greyhound. It looks as if Germany were trying to do the impossible, and make the imaginative, idealistic, impulsive Pole into the matter-of-fact, logical, stubborn German. The thing cannot be done.

Too Deep for Utterance.

The Kaiser is having built in America a fast and handsome yacht. The reason for this seems to be patent; judging from frequent performances, Americans build pretty good sailing vessels. The Columbia is a shining example, and others might be mentioned.

With the prolonged howl against American forwardness in the walks of commerce as well as other paths almost too numerous to recapitulate, it might seem to be strange that all Germany has not risen in protest against the sovereign's act.

The explanation of the lugubrious silence of the Teutons in this instance, however, may possibly be found in the fact that less majestic is ready and willing to do business at the old stand. This royal endorsement of the American invader must provoke thoughts almost too deep for utterance.

PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT WASHINGTON PEOPLE.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Baumgarten, of 440 H Street northwest, who recently announced the engagement of their daughter, Carrie, to Mr. Nathan W. Liseberger, of Baltimore, will be at home next Sunday evening.

Mrs. David Wolfe Brown, Miss Brown and Miss Mesny will not be at home Saturday, December 21.

Major and Mrs. S. Willard Saxton, of Huntington Place, are entertaining their daughters, Mrs. E. C. Seward, of Montclair, N. J., and Mrs. J. Edgar Miller, of Pittsburg.

Mrs. Fairbanks, president general of the D. A. R., accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Allen, of Indianapolis, has arrived in Washington for the winter.

The Misses Ada and Carrie Kraft have returned from a six weeks' visit to relatives in the Blue Mountains of Maryland.

Miss Mary Henderson, a former teacher in the public schools, has returned from a two years' course of study in Berlin, Germany.

Mr. George P. Allen and his sister, Miss Grace Allen, will leave this afternoon to spend the Christmas season at their childhood's home, in southern Maryland.

Mrs. Washington Armstrong has sold her house in Brookland, D. C., and will make her permanent home in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Heurich are receiving congratulations upon the birth of a son.

The engagement is announced of Miss Grace M. King, daughter of Mrs. H. King, Jr., to Mr. Henry L. Kaufman. At home December 22 from 8 to 10.

Mrs. Kittie Thompson Berry will be the soloist this evening at the International rustic fair which is being held by the Legion of Loyal Women at Masonic Temple. She will sing "Il Bacio," by L'Arctique.

Mrs. John F. Butler, of Anacostia, will be at home on Thursdays from 4 to 6.

Mrs. Charles Emory Smith has gone for a short visit to Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Snow are located at the Shoreham for the winter.

Messrs. John Hill and Walter Petty are on a ten-days' ducking trip on the Potomac, near Point Lookout.

Mrs. Maurice D. O'Connell and daughter, of 2118 O Street, will be at home the first and third Saturdays of every month.

As Mr. and Mrs. J. L. M. Curry, of 1736 M Street, are in mourning they will take no part in society this winter.

Miss Annie C. Fuller, who has been visiting the Misses Shoemaker, 3234 N Street northwest, has returned to her home in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Petland celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage Tuesday at their residence, 1330 Eighteenth Street northwest.

Rev. Dr. Hamlin, pastor of the Church of the Covenant, was the guest of the Presbyterian Social Union of Baltimore at a dinner given in that city Tuesday night.

The Russian Ambassador, the Countess Marguerite Cassini, Mme. Scheele, and M. and Mrs. Makovsky have gone to New York, where they will spend several days at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Mrs. George Stephenson Dixby, of New York, is the guest of Mrs. and Miss Wright, of 1411 Hopkins Place.

OUR NATIONAL LEGISLATORS.

Senator Mason, his rotund form shaking with merriment, and his face shining with good nature, made his first speech of the new session yesterday. As usual, it was a plea for the Pure Food laws. As soon as the Illinois statesman rises at his desk to make a speech, it is safe to say that the subject will be pure food. Mr. Mason is a walking exemplar of his own doctrine, and is the most contented looking man in the upper body of Congress. He has reached the stage wherein he cares not whether his necktie is on straight or his hair thrown back in true Senatorial style. He is the contented man of the Senate, and his motto is: "There is no sin, save that of unkindness."

Senator Foraker has made a significant statement in refuting the charge that the contest over the organization of the Ohio Legislature is really to advance his own interests over those of Senator Hanna's Presidential candidate in 1904.

"I have already selected by candidate for President in 1904," he said. "His name is Theodore Roosevelt."

Two members of the Kentucky delegation in the House are avowed candidates for United States Senator, Charles K. Wheeler of the First district and David H. Smith of the Fourth. Just as soon as Congress adjourns for the holiday recess, they will leave for Frankfort, the State capital, and begin an active personal campaign. Both are deservedly popular, and their hope is that a combination can be formed by which Governor McCreary, who is said to have the inside track, can be beaten.

Representative Smith is said to be one of the best campaigners in Kentucky, and on the stump he can hold his own. He is a leading lawyer in the Blue Grass State, and is a member of the House Judiciary Committee. In the event of a deadlock in the legislation, the wise ones say the Senatorial lightning will strike D. Linn Gooch, of Covington, who now represents the district of ex-Speaker and ex-Senator John G. Carlisle. It is not known that Mr. Gooch is a candidate, but he has a fine record in the House of the State. The successor to Senator Deboe will be elected next month.

In the mall yesterday Representative Sheppard of Texas, received a small package which contained a cotton ball plucked from the cotton fields of Roxton, Lamar county. The ball was a beautiful specimen of the locks of cotton that measured fully five inches long. It was a present from Walter Bywaters, a planter of Lamar county. Accompanying the cotton ball was a note, which said: "The Groat bill is still pending and if passed it will hurt our chief industry."

On the floor of the House yesterday morning Representative Boreing of the Eleventh Congressional district of Kentucky, was the recipient of many congratulations on the appointment of R. D. Hill as United States Attorney for the Western district of the Blue Grass State.

Mr. Hill had in addition to the support of Mr. Boreing the endorsement of Representative Irwin, Judge Walter Evans, and the entire Louisville bar. The reappointment of Mr. Hill is the second victory for Representative Boreing in the matter of Kentucky patronage.

The member from the Eleventh district is taking no hand in the contest for the other Federal offices in the State.

At home Representative Thomas M. Jett of the Eighteenth Illinois district is known as "Pitt the Great." He is known by this sobriquet because in the last two Congresses he was successful in securing an appropriation of \$50,000 for improvements on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River banks. And he has assurance of a like appropriation for the same purpose this Congress. Mr. Jett is known as one of the mainstays of the Illinois Democracy.

For twenty years George R. Patterson of Pennsylvania, was a drummer or commercial traveler. Now he is a member of Congress. He is the friend of the coal miners, and they elected him. Mr. Patterson and Mr. Bankhead have the distinction of being the only ex-traveling men in the Fifty-seventh Congress. There is this difference between the two. Mr. Patterson is still a salesman on the road, but by proxy only. For a new member Mr. Patterson was quite fortunate in his committee assignments, being placed on Mines and Mining and Pensions.

Right Man in Right Place. (Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.) It is gratifying to know that a number of leading Republican members of the Senate are strongly opposed to any change in the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on the Isthmian canal, now held by Senator Morgan of Alabama.

Mr. Morgan has labored incessantly with marvelous ability and perseverance for the success of the isthmian waterway scheme. It would be a cruel disregard of the proprieties to rob the acknowledged champion of the canal scheme of the glory and credit of his work after he had contributed so largely to its success by his services as chairman of the committee.

The Matrimonial Highway. (Chicago Record-Herald.) The plans and devices offered for checking divorces in this country are as numerous as the cotton bolls on the plant of preventing badness. Millions of gallons of hair tonic, warranted to grow hair on a bald head, are made each year, and yet the tons of the fellows in the street are as bald as the white and shiny as ever.

It is the same way with remedies for divorce, those stickum compounds that are warranted to tighten up the matrimonial ties. Despite sermons and legislation the divorces multiply at an astonishing rate.

Pan-American Arbitration. (Boston Transcript.) The moral force of the Monroe Doctrine, if once formally adopted by Pan-America, would go far to supply that lack of executive authority which is the chief weakness of the American treaty, even if it should create its own international court of arbitration or should adopt such a court otherwise created. Until the day of Pan-American citizenship shall arrive proposed systems of arbitration will need something more than the support of the treaty-making power. Until the day of American States; for the stream can rise no higher than its source.

Remedy for a Desperate Case. (St. Louis Star.) The Democrats of Ohio contemplate indulging in three great banquets this winter, at which the principles of the great unwashed are to be exploited, with a view of getting together. About the only way of keeping the Democrats of the Buckeye State together is to make the dinners continuous, keeping guards at the doors to restrain the guests from going out.

A Burning Question. (Louisville Courier-Journal.) If it turns out to be true, whisky can be made from watermelons, the real negro question will arise when Mingo is confronted with the problem whether he shall eat his melon at the spot or wait for its conversion into whisky.

Infantile Diplomacy. It was in a country neighborhood, where the women had not forgotten how to cook, and baking day had not gone out of fashion. The small boy of the house had a habit of circulating among the neighbors at about 11 o'clock in the morning, when things are apt to come out of the oven, and youthful appetites are just ripe. Usually his visits were rewarded by a piece of pie, or a cookie, or a doughnut, or a small and spicy plum-cake. Then his mother found it out, and there was an imperial ukase.

"Lin," said she, "you must never ask for anything to eat when you go to the neighbors. They will think you don't get enough at home. I am very much mortified."

Two days later Lin happened in, quite accidentally, at a place where there was a large and voracious family. The long kitchen table was covered with pies and cakes. Lin saw a sign on the wall in the middle stood a platter of the particular, small, plummy cakes which were Lin's special delight. He stood with one hand firmly clutching the handle of his little red wagon, and his big dark eyes just visible above the edge of the table. He sniffed the bewitching fragrance, but he was mindful of his promise. At last he spoke.

"Mrs. Hardy," said he, "your things look good—and smell good—but I wouldn't ask for any 'I wastastarveter death."

"There's a club in Boston composed of the very cream of colored society."

"Um—that would be a sort of chocolate ice-cream, wouldn't it?"

There are some people who have such an idea of their importance to give you the impression that if they did not keep pushing it, the world would turn around and go backward.

The Human Weakness. Order is Heaven's first law; but most of us prefer to lose our things, and have our furs.

If life were all in trim for me or you, What would the dear reformers have to do? And incidentally, if all were done Exactly so, we'd miss a lot of fun.

"May I give you a glass of wine, Mr. Flyte?" enquired the genial Kentuckian of the aspiring architect.

"Ah—thank you, Colonel, I am a teetotaler."

"A tee—Do I understand you to say you never take anything, suh?"

"That is my habit, Colonel."

"My dear sir, I am sorry, exceedingly sorry, but I am afraid you will never be able to build me a house. If you will only go out and demonstrate by personal experience that a man cannot always go up an artistic flight of stairs at 2 a. m.—you will see that the house art must sometimes be subordinated to the practical. I hope, indeed I hope, we can then do business together. Good morning, suh."

ALONG THE SKIRMISH LINE.

"So Reginald has taken up music? The last time I saw him he was studying painting and said he was wedded to his art."

"I guess he conducts that sort of thing on the Mormon principle."

"Papa, what did the doctor mean when he said we were going to die on diet?"

"I think," said papa, looking down solemnly at a plate of health food, "he meant that I should die of it before very long."

The old-fashioned employer who did not think his clerks were earning their salaries unless they were bumped over their desks with their necks drawn in like turtles, seems to be disappearing from the earth.

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NO REDUCTION OF SPEED.

This composition is a favorite one for making matrices for certain kinds of dyes in the manufacture of paper, and comparatively little experience is needed to duplicate any metallic or other solid form desired. The synthesis of metallic compounds is in its infancy. We are just beginning to know something about steel. In time we will know how to make metal compounds much harder than the hardest of carbon steels, much softer than lead, so refractory that an electric furnace will not melt, and so yielding that sunlight will turn them to liquid."

"My youngest girl is nine and the bright and shining star of the fourth grade school which she attends," said a prominent Treasury official. "She reads with intelligence, and can spell words of three or four syllables with voluble ease."

When I took her spelling book and asked her the definitions of the words she spun out so glibly, I found she had not such a knowledge of what they meant or such a hazy and inaccurate notion as to cast serious doubt on the utility of her study in that particular branch.

"Now we had one good shaking up in the school system a year or so ago, and I can see that a lot of good was accomplished. Spelling was one of the studies which was re-established. But it is the most obvious fact that it should be accompanied by a clear understanding of the meaning of the words spelled. The spelling book referred to lays stress on the rules of spelling, and groups similarly constructed words in a systematic manner, but there are no definitions, and few sentences explaining and illustrating the use of the words embraced in the hundreds of columns.

"Here is need of further reform. It is worse than useless to pack undigested learning into children's heads. I wish some competent teacher would prepare careful vocabularies of the words which children use freely at the different ages from five to ten, organize them into reading and spelling books, and then get them into the public schools. Every child of six uses six to eight hundred words correctly, and should know how to spell them before a wicker vocabulary is forced upon it."

Greatest Effort of His Life. (Detroit Free Press.) "But can Roosevelt live it down?" enquired Jenkins of Oklahoma, whom the President recently pardoned for the payroll. We do not know, but we think he will try.

Gold Standard for Mexico. (Minneapolis Tribune.) The irresistible trend of events seems to be driving Mexico to a gold basis. Mexico is fortunate in having before her eyes the example of a solvent and prosperous neighbor.

Free to Enter. (Milwaukee Sentinel.) They may bar out Booker Washington from every hotel in Christendom, but there is being prepared for him a room in a mansion not built by hands.

In Need of a Tonic. (Nashville American.) The Democratic party is in need of a tonic, but not a shroud.

Able Doctors for a Sick Man. (Minneapolis Times.) It is announced that the high tariff statesmen in the Senate, who take turns sitting on the floor, are now being prepared to take turns in the hospital.

W-ll, Hardy! (Kansas City Star.) With Mr. Carnegie's proposition to endow a university at Washington with \$10,000,000, and with Mrs. Stanford's gift of \$30,000,000 to the Leland Stanford University in California, is there not danger that higher education in this country may become top-heavy?

Life Topics About Town. The lower law of the civilized white races," said a well-known F Street dentist, "has never been a quarter of an inch in the last 2,000 years. It is still moving back. Too much cooked food is the cause. Savages still have occluding jaws; that is, the teeth meet all the way around, the lower against the upper. When we get really civilized we will all chew raw grains for at least an hour a day from childhood to old age. Then we will have good jaws, sound teeth, and perfect digestions. The Lacedaemonians chewed raw wheat for the purpose. When their graves were opened a few years ago their teeth were found as sound as ever, and fragments of the grain were found lodged in the interstices. Fifty thousand years ago the wisdom teeth were as useful as any of the molars. Now they are short-lived, and an impediment. We seldom fill them, and then only at the urgent request of our patients. I wish some quality of parched wheat on the market just for chewing purposes. The dentists would give it all the advertising it needed. In the meanwhile chew gum. Fastidious persons cry down the habit, but it is good for the teeth."

It has needed just such a proposition as that which is understood to be advanced by Andrew Carnegie, backed by a \$10,000,000 endowment, to give the people of the country realize that right now in Washington is all the material necessary to organize and put in operation the greatest university of applied and technical learning on the globe. The Patent Office leads the world in its specialized information on the arts and industries.

The Bureau of Animal Industry and other branches of the Agricultural Department have been world-wide and acknowledged superiority in their specialties. The Geological Survey and the Coast and Geodetic Survey have furnished models of advanced methods to every nation. The Marine Hospital Service is a world's model for the most scientific methods of warding off and combating pestilential diseases.

The Army Medical Museum and Library is the most extensive of the Department of statistical methods of the Department of Labor are copied in every civilized country. The Government Printing Office is the largest and most thoroughly equipped under the sun. The new Astro-Physical Observatory and the new Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures will represent the furthest advance of science in their respective fields. And these are by no means all. It is evident that when the university system has been carefully worked out by proper legislation thousands of students will avail themselves of the opportunities presented.

"Bismuth, tin and lead, separately, melt at temperatures well up in the hundreds," remarked a Patent Office expert. "But mix them in a certain proportion, and they will melt at a temperature of 225 degrees, slightly hotter than boiling water. See this?"

He picked up a small lump of a silver gray metal, put it in the bowl of an iron spoon and held it over a gas jet. In a few seconds it turned to liquid which danced and ran about like quicksilver. Without hesitating he poured the molten metal into the palm of his hand and then passed it back and forth from one hand to the other.

"Hold your hand," he requested. The reporter timorously ventured. "It will not burn if you keep it moving. The moisture of your palm evaporates and protects the skin."

When the hot-looking mass touched the flesh it felt warm, but that was all, and moderate speed of manipulation sufficed to keep it from blistering.

"This composition is a favorite one for making matrices for certain kinds of dyes in the manufacture of paper, and comparatively little experience is needed to duplicate any metallic or other solid form desired. The synthesis of metallic compounds is in its infancy. We are just beginning to know something about steel. In time we will know how to make metal compounds much harder than the hardest of carbon steels, much softer than lead, so refractory that an electric furnace will not melt, and so yielding that sunlight will turn them to liquid."

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